regular vacancies arising in the promotees quota from 1989 onwards, on a regular basis and the exercise is likely to be completed by 1992-93.

(c) Since all promotions were made on regular basis, due representation to SC/ ST was given as per rules.

(d) In view of (b) & (c) above not applicable.

Manufacturing of Digital Switching System

4534. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Ministr of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for development of Telematics has indigenously manufactured a 10,000 line Digital Switching System; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Centre for Development of Telematics has indigenously developed a 10,000 lines Digital Switching System. The technology has been transferred t0 Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and the product is in bulk production at Electronic city at Hosur Road, Bangalore. The first 10,000 lines Exchange manufactured by ITI was commissioned into service at Ulsoor in Bangalore on 30 December, 1991, after all the functional, production quality and service quality tests by Telecom Engineering Centre, quality assurance circle and Technical and Development Circle wings of D.O.T. ,Currently technology is being transferred to eight more manufacturers in public, private and joint sectors.

Take over of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company

*4535. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India has recently floated a tender for taking over the Scindia Steam Navigation Company; and

(b) if so, the details of the bid and the conditions stipulated for the take over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) on behalf of the Government of India, have issued a public notice inviting bids for participating in the management of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited.

(b) The conditions stipulated for the management take over are, *inter-alia*, as under:

(i) to run the operations of the company efficiently and profitably;

(ii) to discharge the liabilities including for the current operations; and

(iii) to assume responsibility for the securing and orderly repayment of the company's debt to the Government of India.

Bids have been received from six bidders viz. (1) Amer Ship Management, (2) Ceat Limited, (3) Essar Shipping, (4) Great Eastern Shipping, (5) Plate Heat Transfer Pte. Limited, and (6) Smt. Sumati Morarjee.

*Previously Unstarred Question 3240, transferred from 18th March, 1992.